

honestly look at that person and say, "That's just a complete waste of money. That doesn't do any good for anybody and there's no way we're going to do it."

Of course when you spend money, there is always an argument that it is helping people, and it does. But you have to look at the long term as well. If we spend all the money now, we will be forfeiting and mortgaging our children's future, and that is not fair. At this particular time it is particularly frustrating, because we have a strong economy. We have unemployment of just over 4 percent, we have inflation of below 2 percent. We have a strong economy so that we do not have to spend as much money. The economy is taking care of people. The government does not have to do as much. Now is the time to be fiscally responsible, because if we do not do it now, a few years from now when the business cycle turns on us, it is going to be a thousand times more difficult, because people are going to need those programs and that help or that tax cut even more. Now is the time to be fiscally responsible, balance the budget and give something back to our future.

I think all politicians in this body should be proud to go back to their district and say, "Don't judge me by whether or not I brought you back a highway or a bridge or some other Federal program. Judge me by the fact that I had the foresight and the discipline to balance the budget and take care of our economy for today and tomorrow." That is what I think we should be doing back here in Congress, despite the overwhelming pressure to spend money. Spend it, fine. The Federal Government spends a lot of money, \$1.7 trillion. No reason we cannot spend it within our means. No reason we cannot be fiscally responsible and balance the budget. I urge that we do that as soon as possible and remember that discipline when we go into the budget battles that lie ahead this year.

LEGISLATION TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I want the last two speakers to know that I am grateful for their emphasis on fiscal responsibility and to let them know how refreshing it is to hear Members of the other side of the aisle concentrate on reduction of debt, budget responsibility, fiscal responsibility. It gives impetus to my remarks about to be made on something that has been bothering me for 10 years and on which I have spoken at least 100 times on the floor and on which I will ask for their support when the time comes. This mainly is budget restraint through prevent government shutdown legislation.

If there ever was a clamp on our ability to balance the budget and to exude fiscal responsibility, it is the lack of a mechanism to prevent government shutdown. What have I proposed over the last 10 years which now seems to be gathering more momentum?

Everyone should recognize that on September 30, the end of the fiscal year for the Congress of the United States, for the U.S. Government, if no new budget is in place the next day, October 1, we enter into an automatic shutdown of government until a budget can be put into place. What we have resorted to in the past, as a Congress, has been temporary appropriations for 10 days, 2 months, sometimes more than that, but always with another crisis to face us at the end of that deadline on whether or not we will have a full budget.

My proposal is so simple that it cannot penetrate the consciousness of Members of Congress, and that is this: That at the end of the fiscal year, September 30, if no new budget is in place the next day, if no new budget has been passed, then the next day automatically, by instant replay, like in professional football, instant replay, there will be enacted last year's budget.

□ 1315

What will that do?

That means that forever we will avoid the possibility ever after of shutting down government because there will always be a budget in place. I ask for support of my instant replay legislation which is making the rounds now of the Members of the Congress because it makes common sense.

In the past, I have been saying that the reason my proposal has not passed is because it makes so much sense. Now I want to turn that around and say: Because it makes so much sense, and because it is vital to fiscal responsibility, and because it is vital to the reduction of the debt, and because it is vital to keep the stream of American society moving past any impasse that we might have because of budget breakdowns, I urge that we now see the light of day and pass my instant replay legislation.

No more government shutdowns, no more leaving our troops as we did in Desert Storm ready to fight that battle while the government back in Washington shut down. Can my colleagues imagine anything more disgraceful, more embarrassing, more revolting than that? My legislation would prevent that for all time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge full and constant and instant support of my instant replay legislation.

MEXICO IS NOT AGGRESSIVE IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say "amen" to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) and would like to remind people who sometimes do not remember historical points and therefore are prone to repeat them is, as one of the so-called firebrands of the Class of 1994, I supported Mr. GEKAS and other similar legislation from the beginning, as we did before the government shutdown.

The fact is that it was not the House that shut down the government, it will not be the House that shuts down the government, and it should not be, which is why we need to pass this legislation. We have been for this all the way along.

Others would like to make it look like unless they get their way in the appropriation bills that we are the bad guys, but that is different from the truth, and it is put up or shut up time. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) has had this bill for year after year. Where are the cosponsors who like to whine about the threat of a government shutdown? Why are they not backing his bill?

But I came down here today to talk about the drug issue. In the last few days, the President has certified Mexico as a cooperating partner in the war against drugs, and I would like to comment particularly on that subject. Although in the Committee on Education and the Workforce we are continuing to work with the Drug-free Schools Act, Safe and Drug-free Schools Act, we are continuing to work with treatment programs and many other areas, right now the focus is and should be on interdiction, because there is only so much schools can do in Indiana and around the country if they are flooded with this huge supply of high-grade cocaine, heroin, marijuana that has been coming in mostly through the Mexican border and increasingly through the Mexican border and is produced predominantly in three countries in the world: Peru, Bolivia and Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, we need to understand that we, while we can argue whether this is a cancer or a war, it is, in fact, both because there is a war going on in South America. Two countries have made tremendous progress: Peru and Bolivia. It shows that we can actually reduce the coca bean grown, reduce the cocaine being processed and reduce the cocaine being shipped.

In Columbia, there is a battle on the ground; and, in Mexico, it is a little bit bigger question because it is clear that some of the people, or most, as far as we can tell, of the people in their government are attempting to cooperate with us. It is not clear that we have had such cooperation in the past, and many of the proposals are relatively new on the table.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) of the Subcommittee on Drug

Policy on the Committee on Government Reform took a CODEL to Central and South America that just arrived back a little over a week ago, and we spent 3 days in Mexico, and I would like to put into the RECORD a list of different things that Mexico has actually been doing in the past year:

PGR—PROCURADURIA GENERAL DE LA REPUBLICA, FEBRUARY 19, 1999

Overall Reform of Mexico's Law Enforcement Legal System—Key Points—Legal, Institutional Reorganization, and Human Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

Articles 16 and 19: Increased balance in order to present proof of the "probable cause" of the crime and obtain arrest warrants, and orders of formal incarceration (submission to criminal proceeding).

Article 22: Forfeiture of organized crime proceeds in not concluded criminal proceedings (e.g., death of the offender). The intention is to avoid the simulation in the transfer of the assets to third parties.

Article 123 paragraph B fraction XIII: Police bodies depuration, dismissed police officers will not be able to demand reinstatement, and they would only be compensated.

FEDERAL ACT FOR THE CONTROL OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS—DEC. 26, 1997, OFFICIAL GAZETTE

To prevent and locate the diversion of chemical precursors, and it regulates the chemical substances related to in the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking.

Fast mechanism in order to add the regulated chemical substances list.

Data Base: Increased coordination between agencies and PGR. Imports and exports exchange of information with other nations.

PROPOSED FEDERAL ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SEIZED, FORFEITED AND ABANDONED ASSETS

Objective basis for the proper administration of the proceeds of crime.

Strengthening of the legal basis for the use of the proceeds seized by the Federal Public Prosecutor in the fight against crime.

Sharing of proceeds with State, Local and Foreign governments.

Final destiny of the seized proceeds in favor of the Federal Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office.

Establishment of Deputy Attorney General Offices for Criminal Procedures A, B y C (Territorial distribution of the cases), Special Prosecutor's Office for the Attention of Health Related Crimes (Drug trafficking), Special Unit on Organized Crime, Special Unit against Money Laundering, and Reliability Control Center.

DISMISSAL OF BAD ELEMENTS

Imposition of 1,973 sanctions (Dec. 2, 1996 to Feb. 17, 1999), 438 dismissed, 294 disqualified, and 157 dismissed/disqualified.

Criminal charges against 317 former public servants.

TRAINING

Participation of DEA, and FBI.

National Police of Spain, National Police of France, Canadian Royal Mounted Police, and Police of Israel.

NEW FRINGE BENEFITS FOR THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

Civil Service regulations, major medical expenses insurance ("Premier"), Life insurance (major risk—100 thousand to 400 thousand dollars), additional salary to com-

pensate risks, and bonuses for relevant actions.

BINATIONAL SEMINAR ON MEXICO-US LEGAL TRAINING

It is focused on the knowledge of legal provisions and investigation techniques in both countries.

Its objective is to provide participants with a wider and clearer comprehension of the legal systems, the structures and means of law enforcement in Mexico and the US.

RELIABILITY CONTROL CENTER

It was established on May 2, 1997, performs evaluations (vetting) for the detection of the reliability of the personnel. Applies the following evaluations: Medical, toxicological, psychological, family background and financial situation, and polygraph or lie detector.

RELIABILITY CONTROL CENTER

The evaluations are applied to newly recruited public servants, and All individuals working in FEADS, UEDO, and UCLD.

Periodical evaluations are applied to all the employees of the Attorney General's Office (PGR). 60% of the people tested have been rejected or dismissed.

SEALING OPERATION

The following agencies of the Mexican Government participate in the sealing operations—Attorney General's Office (PGR), Ministry of the Interior (SG), Ministry of National Defense (SDN), Ministry of the Navy (SM-AM), Ministry of Communications and Transport (SCT)—Federal Highway Police, and Ministry of the Treasury (SHCP)—Fiscal Police.

The operation sealing includes—Early warning operations, identification and interdiction of suspicious targets, air, land and sea interdiction, patrolling, control of land, sea and air collateral elements that support drug trafficking, creation of a comprehensive communications system, coordination with the authorities of Guatemala and Belize, and organization of an intelligence scheme.

The sealing operation covers the following geographical areas—Gulf of California—States: Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Nayarit. Land: 419,049 km². Litorals: 3,525 km.

Peninsula of Yucatán—States: Campeche, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo. Land: 132,426 km². Litorals: 1,740 km.

Southern Border—States: Chiapas and Tabasco. Land: 30,783 km². Litorals: 300 km.

In the near future the efforts of the Sealing Operation will also cover the State of Tamaulipas.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW STRATEGY

1. Intensify the fight against production and traffic of drugs by doing the following: A higher control in the access, transit and exit of drugs. The sealing of borders, coasts, maritime ports and airports, and the eradication of illicit drug crops.

2. Procure new systems of detection, destruction, tracing, register and response. Helicopters with advanced equipment of—Navigation, overnight operation, and coded communications. 40 speedboats (there is a current inventory of 20 and the rest will be purchased next year). 8 gunboats "Holzinger 2000" equipped with high speed interdiction boats (more than 50 knots) and a helicopter.

3 "Centenario" corvettes equipment with—1 high speed intercepting boat. 2 "Caribe" patrols for low waters. 144 speedboats (already existing) for coast and riverside patrolling.

Counternarcotics equipment at ports, airports, roads and border crossings, equipped

with X-rays—"Mobile Search" (current inventory of 5 and 8 will be purchased next year), "Cargo Search" for the inspection of containers at ports, "Body Search" and "Buster" in ports, airports and border crossings, and dog units for drug detection.

The following will be used for the eradication of illicit drug crops—35 fast surveillance aircraft. 64 helicopters (24 will be purchased during this year and the next), and autonomous access to satellite images and precise aerial photographs to detect illicit drug crops and verify its effective eradication.

3. Strengthening the coordination between the PGR, SEDENA and SEMAR.

4. Create a control center within the PGR to coordinate the counter-narcotics operations, joint, interinstitutional, and multidisciplinary.

5. Utilize Air Platforms in the combat to drug trafficking, 7 air platforms with cruising range of 9 to 12 hours. Equipped with—long range, high resolution air radars, long range electronic-optical sensors, and high technology cruising systems.

6. Renew the distribution of the air, sea and land reaction forces.

7. Apply Trust Control procedures to counternarcotics personnel, in addition to those applied by the PGR.

8. Increase the budget for the purchase of tracing and interdiction infrastructure.

Mexico has been the world's leader in the eradication of crops since 1994. It is an effort coordinated by the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of the Navy, among others. There is a continuous growth of efforts, and the methods used are air spraying and manual eradication.

Juárez Cartel—The dismantling of this organization began with the drug-trafficking protection activities performed by General Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo. More than 100 arrest warrants were issued, and millions of dollars were seized corresponding to various real properties and documents that allow the identification of money laundering activities.

Tijuana Cartel—16 members of the criminal organization of the Arellano Félix have been arrested.

Colima Cartel—5 members of this Cartel have been arrested, among which are the Amezcua Contreras brothers.

Gulf Cartel—Juan Garcia Abrego and Oscar Malherbe were arrested, and four of its members have been apprehended.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SPECIALIZED UNIT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

The Specialized Unit against Money Laundering (UECLD) was established on January 1st, 1998. UECLD has been working in close collaboration with FEADS and UEDO, in order to coordinate the various matters related to money laundering crimes. Money laundering matters (From January 1st through December 31st 1998). Pre trial investigations, 58; Criminal proceedings, 31; and Convictions, 3.

OFFICE OF THE FISCAL ATTORNEY OF THE FEDERATION

Contributes with the PGR in the fight against money laundering by presenting accusations and criminal complaints on the probable commission of such crimes.

Accusations and complaints presented, (December 1994 to February 1999). Article 115 Bis of the Federal Fiscal Code (repealed), 47; and Article 400 Bis of the Federal Penal Code, 19.

International Cooperation Principles, full respect to—The sovereignty of both countries, the territorial jurisdiction, and the domestic law.

TIJUANA—SAN DIEGO GROUP

Personnel, 21 elements vetted and trained. Functions, intelligence investigations in all the national territory in order to locate the Arellano Félix brothers.

Information exchange, this group will be supported by the Border Task Forces, FEADS, CENDRO and all PGR structure. Meetings to coordinate and exchange information with a similar group in San Diego, California are also taking place.

EXTRADITIONS IN PROCESS—FIGURES UPDATED TO FEBRUARY 13, 1999

Active (Mexico requests to other countries), Total 383; with the U.S.—355, 92.6%.

Passive (Requests made to Mexico by other countries), Total 235; from the U.S.—210, 89.3%.

Application of the provisions to prevent and detect transactions carried out with resources from illicit origin.

Suspicious transaction reports, 715; concerning transaction reports, 31; and large value transaction reports, 5,623,665.

Mexican citizens surrendered in extradition to the U.S.

Mexicans by naturalization: John Amos Devries (Robbery/fraud 07/27/95), Leslie Wortenberg Kenneth (Drug Trafficking 01/19/96), and Dominick Espósito Joseph (Drug trafficking 06/12/96).

Native Mexicans: Francisco Gómez García (Sexual Abuse 04/17/96), Aaron Morel Lebaron (Criminal Association 04/25/96), Delia Cantú de Sánchez (Sexual Assault 03/04/98), Rosendo Gutiérrez Rojero (Sexual Abuse 10/15/98), and Bernardo Velárdes López (Drug trafficking/Homicide of a BP agent 11/06/98).

Mexican citizens subject to extradition proceeding at the 1st step (Not Compulsory Opinion of the District Judge).

Gerardo Alvarez Vázquez (Drug trafficking 12/03/97), Miguel Ángel Martínez Mtz. (Drug trafficking 06/08/98), and Luis Amezcua Contreras (Drug trafficking 10/08/98). (All provisional arrest.)

Extraditions of Mexicans already granted pending an amparo (all of them in drug trafficking related crimes).

Date on which the extradition was granted by the Secretary of State of Mexico. Tirzo Angel Robles, 02/28/97; Jaime Arturo Ladino, 09/04/97; Juan Ángel Salinas, 12/16/97; Everardo Arturo Páez, 05/04/98; Florentino Blanco, 05/08/98; and José de Jesús Amezcua, 12/10/98.

Mexican citizens tried under Article 4 of the Federal Penal Code (important cases).

Oscar Malherbe de León, Drug trafficking/criminal association; David Alex Alvarez, "Spooky"*, Homicide/illegal deprivation of freedom; José Eustaquio Chávez Laines*, Homicide/drug trafficking; Jaime González Castro, Drug trafficking; Gildardo Martínez López**, Money laundering; Carlos Escoto Alcalá**, Money laundering; Miguel Angel Barba Martin**, Money laundering; Jorge Milton Díaz**, Money laundering; José Sergio Calderón Fdz**, Money laundering; and Lionel Barajas, Homicide.

* Convicted.

** Operation Casablanca. At present in process.

BROWNSVILLE LETTER

Signed on July 2, 1998 between Attorney Generals Reno and Madrazo establishing commitments in order to improve cooperation and to regain confidence between both countries.

Based on the Letter, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on procedures for cooperation regarding law enforcement activities.

Likewise, authorities of Mexico and the U.S. have been working on effectiveness

measures for a bilateral, objective, transparent, and balanced evaluation of the efforts of both countries in the fight against drug trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to acknowledge, as frustrated as I and other Members are with Mexico, the fact is they are attempting to make progress. Now that is different from saying that they have made progress. Yes, they have continued to eradicate marijuana, they have fallen behind some in some of their efforts for interdiction on cocaine, and we need those efforts back up. They have not extradited people that we have asked to be extradited, but they have started the process to extradite.

But there are a couple of facts that make this a very difficult vote should it come to that here in Congress. One is, for all the current plans and efforts that they have done in this past year, there are a couple of irrevocable facts. One is, their drug czar was living in an apartment owned by one under the name of one cartel member. Through that compromised drug czar, who was actually on the take from the cartel, potentially every single source we have in Mexico was compromised.

It is going to be very difficult to rebuild a relationship of trust when you have potentially blown every single source you have worked to develop over decades when they have the brother of the President being involved in the assassination of a presidential candidate, when they have people high up in their military, we learn that they are on the take from the drug cartel.

These are not little low-level occasional problems. When we have the DEA unable to go into regional parts of their country, we have substantive problems we have to address with Mexico.

The North American Free Trade Agreement, often referred to along the border and in other parts of the country as the North American Free Drug Trading Act, is something that has opened up the borders, and we have to get control of those borders. But we must not forget much of what we know about the corruption in the Mexican government is because leaders of Mexico have in fact identified those leaders for us and acknowledged that they have to clean it up. The fact is they have started and have proposals on the table to work through extradition, to work through rebuilding their navy. We need a maritime agreement, but one of their comebacks to us is, as my colleagues know: Your government never asked us to sign the maritime agreement.

Part of our argument in Congress is with our own administration, and it is tough to put all the blame on Mexico. I say that as somebody who, for my 4 years here in Congress, has been steadily pounding on Mexico because I believe they have not been aggressive

enough in drug enforcement. I have had several amendments related to Mexico, and I am not certain how I am going to vote. But it is not a clear-cut case, and we need to continue to encourage the current government.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim the 5-minute special order of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

LIBERALS THINK WASHINGTON KNOWS HOW TO SPEND AMERICANS' MONEY BETTER THAN THEY DO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) on his plan. It is something that we have supported since 1995 and had the President and also Members of this Chamber on the left supported the same thing. Then when the President vetoed the nine appropriation bills in 1995 that shut down the government, that could have been avoided. I hope that we will be willing to do that in the future.

I was very, very interested to hear our Democratic friends talk about fiscal responsibility and talking about how the saying went that the balanced budget has no constituency. Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleagues one person that cared about it in 1993 while he was sitting on the couch watching C-Span in the summer in Pensacola, Florida, was myself.

I remember in 1993 watching the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) and a band of young Republican conservatives come to this floor and fight the President and the liberal left's plans to pass the largest tax increase in the history of this Republic. See, their vision of America then and now has been that if we want to balance the budget, the only way we can do it is by raiding the pockets of taxpayers.

In fact, we had some insight on this about a month ago when the President went up to Buffalo, New York, and he told the people in the audience that we really have to avoid this idea that the Republicans have that we are going to cut taxes. The President said to that Buffalo audience:

We could give you money back and hope that you spend it on the right things, but we cannot trust you, basically.